

From: renee lerner <omitted>
To: <airworkshop@dep.state.nj.us>
Date: Thu, May 18, 2006 9:19 PM
Subject: Sandy Krietzman's Group

Sandy Krietzman, NJDEP Leader
Non-Automobile Gasoline Engines Workshop

Dear Ms. Krietzman,

It was a pleasure to meet and talk with you at the air workshop in Trenton this Wednesday. I was amazed to hear the broad area your group covers and the depths to which the many white papers went in offering possible solutions.

I was glad to have the opportunity to express my concerns in particular about the leaf blowers and lawn mowers and can only hope that with your guidance the state will encourage an exchange or rebate program, and then when the EPA delivers its standard maybe we can ban the 2-stroke air and noise polluters. (I think New York has already done this for boat engines.) There was mention that the Landscape Contractors Organization would give recognition to gardeners who use the improved machines. That may be a good selling point for air quality aware homeowners. And if the machines they use create less noise and dust so much the better.

I attach an e-mail sent to Bergen County Executive McNerney because it contains more information that I received from a phone conversation with the California agency's Community Relations Manager, Larry Kolczak, that I thought might be helpful in your policy discussions regarding these machines.

One way to reach our citizens inexpensively is to provide information to the Environmental Commissions and DPWs in the various municipalities. A list of what private citizens can do to reduce air pollution can then be published in the town newsletters. We get newsletters from water conservationists and the Recycling Bin. Air Emissions Control could also publish a newsletter.

The exchange program requires funding, but I think that we can find ways to get it. The machine companies would probably reduce the price of the machines for the state and then we can offer the machines for a lot less than the usual retail price. If you want more details on how to run the program, the California people are very helpful and would be even more so for someone with your credentials.

Good luck with your many projects. You have such a large and important mission. Whatever you achieve it will be more than what was already done and very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Renée Lerner

From: renee lerner <omitted>
Date: Thu Mar 23, 2006 8:25:57 PM US/Eastern
To: omitted
Subject: leaf blower exchange program

Dear County Executive McNerney,

I am pleased that you are interested in this program. I spoke with Larry Kolczak who heads the air pollution agency in California. His agency covers four counties. This is the information he gave me:

They got the Stihl company based in Virginia Beach, VA, to sell the agency the machines at a reduced cost. Mr. Kolczak thought that we could also get a reduction from the company and offer the new machines at a reduced cost of \$300, which would be an inducement since the company is considered the Cadillac of landscaping machines and has an excellent reputation. The agency had three landscaping companies test the machine to make sure that it would meet with their approval before venturing forth. Stihl gave them a demo model for this purpose.

The agency gets money to subsidize various programs including this one, from major companies with 500 and more employees. Companies were offered the alternative to donate money to the agency's Air Quality Investment Program instead of arranging for required carpools for their employees.

The agency did not have to bid for the machine because it is the only one on the market that meets the agency's standards.

With the old two stroke machine 25% of the gas comes out the exhaust without being burned. This is Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) or breathable gas. The Stihl four stroke machine burns the gas better. The machine is five times cleaner than the old ones. Noise is also reduced, and the agency gives a garden equipment manual to the landscapers, written in both English and Spanish, that explains how to use the machines to reduce the dust emission, another source of pollution.

(Mr. Kolczak added that in Phoenix, AZ the power plant offers an

exchange program for commercial gardeners; bring in old machines and get a \$50 rebate to buy certain equipment.)

A stipulation for this exchange program is that the machines turned in must be working.

I hope this information is helpful. If the old machines spew pollution in one year equal to 80 cars, the new machines reduces the pollution 64 cars worth. That's a big reduction when you multiply this figure by the number of leaf blowers used. (However, these figures are for California which uses the machines twelve months each year and we use them for about eight month in a year; and we need to do the math for our area.)

Sincerely,
Renée Lerner, Chair

P.S. Here are the web pages for the Leaf Blower Exchange Program sponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District in California and the Stihl company:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/tao/leafblowerexchange.htm>

http://www.stihlusa.com/pressoffice/oct02_emissions.html

Larry Kolczak: *"contact information omitted"*